



PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW
Director

**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

May 29, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW
Director
Marvin J. Southard, DSW
Director, Department of Mental Health

William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

**APRIL 28, 2009 AMENDMENT TO ITEM NO. 24: KATIE A. STRATEGIC PLAN,
MONTHLY REPORT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING PROCESS**

On April 28, 2009, in response to a motion by Supervisor Molina, the Board ordered the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Mental Health (DMH) to prepare a monthly report on the mental health screening process, beginning on May 30, 2009. The motion indicates that the social workers at the Belvedere and Santa Fe Springs offices will begin the mental health screening process on May 1, 2009. The Departments are charged with tracking the effectiveness of mental health screening, referral to DMH and mental health treatment access in a monthly report that provides the following data elements:

1. Number of social workers completing screenings;
2. Number of children screened;
3. Number of children referred for mental health services;
4. Amount of time between screening, assessment and treatment access;
5. Number of children accessing services;
6. Waiting times, if any, at directly operated clinics or contract providers; and
7. Quality of mental health services.

Introduction

On October 14, 2008, the Board approved the Katie A. Strategic Plan, a single comprehensive and overarching vision of the current and planned service delivery of mental health services to children under the supervision and care of DCFS, as well as those children at-risk of entering the child welfare system. On March 27, 2009, the Departments provided the Board with the Katie A. Implementation Plan that describes the systematic process by which all children with new and currently open DCFS cases will be screened and assessed for mental health services.

On May 1, 2009, the Coordinated Services Action Team (CSAT) and Referral Tracking System (RTS) were implemented, as planned, in Service Planning Area (SPA) 7, comprised of the Santa Fe Springs and Belvedere Regional Offices. The RTS, currently in Phase I, which is in the preliminary design phase of a larger automated system, will enable CSAT staff to accurately track the mental health screening, assessment and service linkage process of DCFS children and provide reliable data as the CSAT process is implemented Countywide.

CSAT Mental Health Screening, Assessment and Service Linkage Process

DCFS/DMH newly developed policies require the following actions:

- All children with new and existing cases will be screened by DCFS for mental health needs.
- All children with a positive mental health screen will be referred to DMH for the most appropriate mental health service.

The RTS Summary Data Report

The attached RTS Summary Data Report is organized according to the specific data elements requested by your Board as follows:

1. Number of social workers completing screenings is defined as the total number of Children's Social Workers (CSWs) who complete the California Institute of Mental Health/Mental Health Screening Tool (CIMH/MHST) or make a referral to a Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT).

2. Number of children screened is defined as the total number of DCFS children for whom a CIMH/MHST or a referral to MAT is completed. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, all newly detained, MAT-eligible children will automatically receive a MAT assessment and the referral to MAT, in many instances, will occur before the screening is completed regardless of outcome. Therefore, for the newly detained population, a referral to MAT is counted as a CIMH/MHST screening.
3. Number of children referred for mental health services is defined as the number of children with a positive mental health screen referred to DMH or a contracted mental health service provider.
4. The amount of time between screening, assessment and treatment access is divided into two separate data elements to accurately reflect the process from screening to referral and referral to assessment/treatment:
 - Average number of days between positive screen and referral to DMH.
 - Average number of days between referral to DMH and the provision of mental health services.
5. The number of children accessing services is defined as the number of children referred by DCFS, based upon a positive mental health screening, who subsequently receive a mental health service, including such services as assessment, treatment, case management, consultation, etc.
6. Waiting times, if any, at directly operated clinics or contract providers is defined, for purposes of this report, as the number of days between the referral to DMH or contracted mental health provider staff and the opening of a mental health episode.
7. The quality of mental health services is a measure of client satisfaction with the mental health services received.

It is important to note that the attached RTS Data Summary Report reflects the total number of children screened and referred from DCFS to DMH for a period of five business days from May 1, 2009 through May 7, 2009 in SPA 7. The systematic screening of new and existing cases is a new process and because this process was initiated on May 1 in the Santa Fe Springs and Belvedere DCFS Offices, a full month's data reflecting the number of children screened for the entire month of May will not be available until the following month. It is important to note that this report does not reflect the screening and service linkage process for DCFS children referred for mental health services prior to May 1, 2009. Currently, based upon data available to us, approximately 47% of DCFS children are receiving mental health services.

Each Supervisor
May 29, 2009
Page 4

The next report, due to the Board on June 30, 2009, and each report thereafter, will include updated data from all previous months. Therefore, the report dated June 30, 2009 will reflect the implementation of CSAT in SPA 7 for an entire month of May.

If you have any questions, please call us or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Assistant Division Chief, DCFS Office of Board Relations, at (213) 351-5530.

Attachment

PSP:MJS:WTF:
CJS:AO:EMM:emm

c: Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

REFERRAL TRACKING SYSTEM SUMMARY DATA REPORT

SPA 7 (May 1 - 7, 2009)

	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	YTD Total
No. of Social Workers Completing Screenings ^{*1}	7								7
No. of Children Screened ²	9								9
No. of Children Referred for Mental Health Services ³	5								5
No. of Days Between Screening and Referral to DMH ^{4a}	3								3
No. of Days Between Referral to DMH and Assessment/Treatment ^{4b}	4								4
No. of Children Accessing Services ⁵	5								5
Waiting Times at Directly Operated Clinics or Contract Providers ^{**6}	TBD								TBD
Quality of Mental Health Services ^{**7}	TBD								TBD

1. Number of Children's Social Workers (CSWs) who completed a screen*.

2. Number of children for whom a screen was completed.

3. Number of DCFS children with a positive screen referred to DMH for a mental health assessment.

4a. Average number of days between positive screen and referral to DMH.

4b. Average number of days between referral to DMH and mental health service.

5. Number of children with positive screens receiving a mental health service.

6. Average number of days between referral to DMH and opening of a mental health episode.

7. The percentage of adults and children reporting they were satisfied or very satisfied with the services received.

* Screen refers to California Institute for Mental Health/Mental Health Screening Tool (CIMH/MHST) or referral to the Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Team (MAT).

** Will be reflected in subsequent reports.



FIRST DISTRICT

BrdMotion

4/30/2009

Year-Control No: 2009-501

Category: BOARD MOTION

Assigned Date: 4/30/2009 **DUE DATE: 5/21/2009** All Complete:

ASSIGNEE(S) NAME	DUE	RECEIVED	COMPLETE	NOTE
Dr. Charles Sophy	5/21/2009			Lead
LISA PARRISH	5/21/2009			Please provide input

SUBJECT:

First District Supervisor Molina- April 24, 2009 Board Agenda Item-24

NARRATIVE/ASSIGNMENT:

Please prepare a response to the following Board Motion with CEO and Chief Probation Officer, Amendment to Item 24, Board Agenda 5/28/2009.

The item was amended by Supervisor Molina to add:

I, therefore, move that the Board of Supervisors receive a monthly report beginning on May 30, 2009, with the following information from the CEO, DCFS and DMH:

Number of Social Workers

Number of Children Screened

Number of Children Referred for Mental Health Services

Amount of Time Between Screening, Assessment and Treatment Access

Number of Children Accessing Services

5/11/2009

Waiting Times, if any at Directly Operated Clinics or Contract Providers

Quality of Mental Health Services

RESULT: Approved as amended on 5-0 vote.

PICS assignment will be issued to
Dr. Sophy and Lisa Parrish

The instructions are "Please review and prepare response. Due to Trish Ploen on May 21, 2009, which is one week before due date for Board submission of May 28, 2009.

STATUS/RESPONSE:

gonzaaf - 4/30/2009 10:08:04 AM - Initiated

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

April 28, 2009

Amendment to Item No. 24

It is my understanding that these Wrap Around contracts are only a part of the significant financial and programmatic commitment we are making to meet the conditions under Katie A.

In addition to these Wrap Around contracts, this Friday, social workers at the Belvedere and Santa Fe Springs Offices will begin the mental health screening process committed under the "Katie A. Strategic Plan".

This is only the first step in identifying which children and youth may require further assessment and treatment. We have waited for this for some time, and I will track the effectiveness of the screening, referral and treatment access.

MOTION

Molina _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Antonovich _____

Knabe _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board Of Supervisors receive a monthly report beginning on May 30, 2009 with the following information from the CEO, DCFS and DMH:

Number of social workers completing Screenings.

Number of Children Screened

Number of Children Referred for Mental Health Services

Amount of Time Between Screening, Assessment and Treatment Access

Number of Children Accessing Services

Waiting Times, if any at Directly Operated Clinics or Contract Providers

Quality of Mental Health Services

MMA/jp